

THE TRUE DEMOCRAT.

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Tallahassee, Friday, May 19, 1905.

The "Capital Publishing Co., State Printers." Who are they?

Is that boasted political pull pulling the results expected? We will watch and see.

"The way of the transgressor is hard" is being fully realized along several lines just now. Let the good work go on!

All investigating committees of this Legislature which have not yet reported are respectfully referred to the report of the joint committee to investigate the insane hospital as a model of wise and fearless performance of the duties for which it was appointed.

More important matters have crowded out our usual abstract of legislative proceedings. The spirit of radical investigation of graft and corruption in high places has taken strong hold upon both houses of the Legislature, and from now on to the close of the session successive startling sensations in this direction may be daily expected.

A "business agent" of a local union in Chicago has confessed to the police that \$15 was paid out of the "educational fund" of the union to procure the assassination of one of the union's alleged enemies. The victim expired during the process of education, which was conducted with clubs wielded by a gang of the union's "special agents."

We laid aside Storrs' Stockman from which to clip, but when we began the process there were so many good things in it which we wanted to reproduce, and had not the space for, that we gave up in despair, and decided simply to advise all of our country readers to send for it. It is published monthly at DeFuniak Springs, and the subscription price is only 50 cents a year.

Some days ago Senator W. A. Blount, of Pensacola, intimated in the course of debate that he did not expect to return to his seat in the Senate. The expression attracted notice because of the exalted position which the distinguished Senator occupies in that body, by reason of his talents and ability, and his retirement therefrom would be a distinct loss to the interests of the State.

Suppose the State should engage in the life insurance business; and suppose in the event of the death of a policyholder the State official in charge of the insurance end of the State government should refuse to pay the claim to the widow beneficiary? How would she assert her rights under the policy? She could not sue the State. She would be helpless. Those who are charged with the duty of enacting laws on this subject would do well to look carefully at this phase of it, and provide against the possibility above suggested if they can.

In the good old State of Illinois, where strikes are indigenous and where imported negroes are met with troops and cannon, there lives a legislator named Comerford, who incurred the enmity of his fellow members by uttering grave charges against them. So they expelled him and sent him home in disgrace. The Governor ordered an election to fill the vacancy, when lo! the name of Comerford "led all the rest," he having been re-elected unanimously as the nominee of both opposing parties. Now, his fellow members and former judges are wondering what to do next.

The sudden—and evidently unexpected—arrest of a number of druggists and others, charged with illicit selling of intoxicating liquors, together with the seizure of considerable quantities of such goods found in their possession, whatever may be the result after the court gets through with them, should operate as a costly but wholesome warning against conscious and wilful violation of law for the sake of gain. And the episode also illustrates the fact that those who worked and voted for the abolishment of the saloons, notwithstanding their apparent apathy while the law was being constantly violated, were not sleeping but at work; and that they are quite likely to keep wide-awake and active in the future.

ENCOURAGING IMMIGRATION.

Some weeks ago The True Democrat noticed the striking relation existing between the ratio of increase in assessed valuations and the spasmodic efforts on the part of the State to encourage immigration. In a table was shown the average yearly increase in cash valuations from 1877 to 1884, 13.48 per cent.; from 1884 to 1894, 7.36 per cent., and from 1894 to 1904, 1.23 per cent. Also that "during almost the entire period of seven years in which the highest ratio of increase in aggregate valuation occurred the State was engaged in official effort to induce and encourage immigration; during the decade next ensuing, for about two years, similar efforts were made, with every prospect of still larger success, had not the Legislature of 1901 foolishly cut off the source of sustenance for such official efforts, and relegated the matter of immigration to the natural and uninvited increase dependent upon private enterprise. From 1891 to 1904, a period of thirteen years, the State has been prevented from making any but the most meagre and unsatisfactory efforts to induce immigration for the lack of the proper provision of funds for that purpose by the Legislature."

The members of the Legislature have evidently been giving serious consideration to this important matter—the most important, perhaps, that is likely to come before them.

Hon. Telfair Stockton, Senator from Duval county, has introduced a bill "to appropriate funds for the encouragement of immigration and to pay the expenses of the same," in which it is provided that "for the purpose of aiding and bringing immigration into the State, properly advertising her resources and advantages, the publication of books, pamphlets or other literature necessary to that end, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) is hereby appropriated, payable out of the funds arising from the sale of fertilizer stamps and tags by the commissioner of agriculture. All expenses authorized and incurred under the provisions of this act shall be audited by the comptroller upon bills being properly certified to by the commissioner of agriculture, and the comptroller shall draw his warrant upon the State treasurer for the amounts."

The State treasurer, in his annual report for the year 1904, states that the sum of \$28,520.93 was turned into the State treasury during that year from the sale of fertilizer stamps and tags. The appropriateness of using a part of this fund for the encouragement of immigration will be apparent to every mind.

The True Democrat heartily approves of this timely and effective measure, and respectfully urges every member of the Legislature with whom it may possess any influence whatever to carefully examine into its merits and, if possible, advocate its passage.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 40.

This interesting document, requesting the Governor, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund and the Railroad Commission to transmit itemized statements showing what amounts have been paid by them respectively for the employment of special counsel during the past four years has been complied with, and the result is somewhat startling. The statements submitted, condensed and tabulated, may be given thus:

Governor Broward reports the amount expended by the several executive boards of the State government,	\$14,151.40
The Trustees of the I. I. Fund report	3,751.40
The Chairman of the Railroad Commission reports,	10,069.90
Total	\$27,972.70

Add 15 per cent. paid estate of Gen. E. A. Perry and others, commissions on \$96,000 back taxes recovered from F. C. & P. R. R., say

Grand total	\$42,372.70
Average per year,	\$10,593.18

The fact should be remembered that the period covered by these reports coincides with that of "the best State administration Florida has had since the war," as the advocates of a certain aspirant for Senatorial honors last summer were fond of calling it; also, that during the entire period Florida had one or more constitutional law officers, charged with the duty of attending to her law business, and drawing a fairly liberal salary of the people's money therefor.

Wight and Burns are headquarters for everything in the line of gentlemen's Furnishing Goods. Go and see them.

White Pleated Front Dress Shirts at Evans'.

SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION.

Some time last month The True Democrat republished from the Dunnellon Advocate, with expressed approval, an article advocating the abolishment or consolidation of some of the so-called State institutions of learning which have been drawing money from the State treasury without rendering to the cause of higher education anything resembling an adequate return for the expenditure. A few days earlier we noted the attendance at the University of Virginia of thirteen students from Florida, and at Emory College, Georgia, of seven others, remarking upon the lack of State pride which prompted parents to send their boys out of the State for an education.

These two editorial attitudes are by no means incongruous or conflicting, for the simple reason that some State institutions are entirely worthy of the highest patronage and competent to afford collegiate education to Florida youth, so that the apparent necessity for sending them away to other States does not actually exist.

That the views then expressed concerning the expediency of closing the doors of the treasury to a considerable number of schools which have been receiving their support wholly, or almost wholly, from that source, have met with approval on the part of legislators is demonstrated by the subsequent course of legislation on the subject. The latest phase of which was the introduction in the House of Mr. Buckman's substitute for Mr. Wall's school regent bill.

Mr. Buckman's bill is a monster in size, the title being more than one-fifth of the entire bill in size, and the whole occupying five columns of space in the Times-Union of May 11. The impossibility of giving even an abstract of the bill in our limited space will be readily appreciated. In brief, the purpose of the measure is to wipe out of existence the six institutions named below, which are being fostered or entirely maintained by appropriations from the State treasury, viz: Florida Agricultural College, now known as University of Florida, at Lake City; West Florida Seminary, now known as Florida State College, at Tallahassee; White Normal School, at DeFuniak Springs; East Florida Seminary, at Gainesville; South Florida Military Institute, at Bartow, and Florida Agricultural Institute, in Osceola county. In the place of these is established the "University of Florida" and the "Florida Female College." The colored Normal School, at Tallahassee, and the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institute, at St. Augustine, are retained, with relocation of all of those named for permanent establishment.

Of course, so drastic a measure will be bitterly opposed, and its enactment into law, in any shape, is somewhat doubtful; but its introduction is a significant illustration of the State of public sentiment on the entire subject, and an indication that the taxpayers of the State have become weary of witnessing successive Legislatures fritter away their hard-earned money in wasteful efforts to build up local schools for the sole benefit of ambitious local communities.

Whatever may be the outcome of legislation with respect to these vampire institutions at the present session, the prediction is a safe one that their period of fictitious prosperity at the expense of worthier institutions is at or very near its end.

AN INSURANCE SYMPOSIUM.

The startling recommendation contained in Governor Broward's message that the State should engage in the insurance business, has been received with growing interest, and has excited no little controversy, both in Florida and elsewhere. Without addition, at this time, to what we have already said with reference to the subject, we present, in sharp contrast, the various opinions of some of the State papers, and also those of two of our contemporaries in other States. They will be found not only interesting, but instructive:

"The suggestion that the State go into the life insurance business is very good, if it could be conducted on entirely business principles and politics kept absolutely out of it, which would be impossible. It would open up a number of fine salaried offices, and a scramble would ensue for these offices and constant wire-pulling done to hold them. For these reasons the Legislature is giving the matter little serious consideration."—DeLand Record.

"Whether the insurance bill now pending in the Legislature passes or not, its discussion will be productive of much good as bringing to light the enormous disproportion of the amounts sent out of the State every year for premiums and the comparative pittance that comes back in the way of payment of losses. If the measure went further and provided for State fire insurance as well as life insurance, it would be that much the better."—DeFuniak Breeze.

"The argument against State life insurance that it will provide 'fat jobs' for several hungry politicians is without force and unworthy of consideration. There is absolutely no danger of any State or county official in Florida being paid half as large salaries as the presidents and other big officers of the leading life insurance companies. Furthermore, any large and important business, to be permanent, must be managed by competent men, men who are worth good, not princely, salaries; and if the State goes into the life insurance business, it should pay good salaries to good men to attend to it. Let us have State life insurance and fire insurance also."—Punta Gorda Herald.

"The new Governor of Florida, a man of ability and practical statesmanship, recommends that the State organize an insurance department that shall write insurance on the lives of its people, save them the extravagant sums they now pay, keep in the State the money that now piles up so high in New York that its wasted in riotous living, and put life insurance within the reach of all its citizens. Every able-bodied man is worth money to his State. If he dies without insurance, in many instances the support of his family falls upon the taxpayers of the State. If he leaves even a small amount of insurance, instead of his children depending upon the bounty of the State, they early become wage earners and add to the wealth of the State. The same reason, on the financial side, that calls for the education of children in public schools will be invoked by wise statesmen to provide life insurance that will enable every man of small earning capacity to leave one or two thousand dollars to his family in case of death.

"The State that is the pioneer in providing this real State insurance department will do the greatest public service that has been done by any State since New York dug the Erie Canal and North Carolina built the North Carolina railroad. Both works were essential to progress. It is quite as great a duty today for a State to provide life insurance as it was to provide those public highways [of commerce in the past century]. We would covet for North Carolina the honor of being the pioneer in this new department, which will become one of the strongest and most popular arms of government, but if Florida is wise enough to heed the recommendation of its wise constructive Governor, it will deserve distinction among its sister States. The lead, must, of course, be taken by one of the States that is sending out its money to enrich other States. We may not expect it from New York or New Jersey or Connecticut, made wealthy because the business of other States sends millions there to pile up great pyramids of surpluses. They are naturally well pleased to have North Carolina send them annually \$3,256,338.70, of which it pays back in policies only \$853,983.89, leaving \$2,402,404.80 more than is paid back to the State.

"Is it any wonder that the people of Florida, North Carolina and other States are tired of that steady drain? We shall be greatly surprised if there is not constructive statesmanship in North Carolina to evolve a system by which the State shall with safety and business success make an insurance department that will insure the lives of its people, at least in sufficient amount to save the State from the care of widows and children when the breadwinner of the family dies."—Raleigh, N. C., Observer.

"The Florida Legislature now has a chance to discuss the question of the advisability of that State going into the life insurance business. Two bills for that purpose were introduced into the House on Friday. In his first message to the Legislature the Governor suggested that the money that the people now send out of the State for life insurance might as well be kept at home.

"The disclosures that have been made in the fight between the factions that are seeking control of the Equitable Life Assurance Society make it clear that life insurance can be sold for a great deal less than the rate at which it is now offered by the great insurance companies of the North, and that too, at a profit after providing ample assets for the protection of policy holders, but it is doubtful if the State of Florida could conduct the business even at the

rates now obtained by the principal insurance companies, except at a loss. Of course there would be no hesitation in taking a policy from the State, because all the property of the State would be security for it, but the danger would be the sentiment and politics that would be connected with the business. The party in power would be disposed to take all sorts of risks, provided they were those of persons in political sympathy with it. The consequence would be that the State would be loaded with policies on the lives of people having one foot in the grave.

"It may be said that the examining physicians would be as strict as the physicians of the regular life insurance companies are. In some cases they would be, but in the great majority of cases the disposition would be to pass about all the applicants, just as it is to pass about all applicants for pensions. In a little while, therefore, it would be found that the claims for losses were greater than the receipts from premiums. Besides, the influence of politicians would be great in having bad risks accepted.

"The machinery for running the insurance department would be made up of party men, and, therefore, politics and business would be mixed, a condition of affairs that doesn't often produce satisfactory results.

"The agents would be politicians of more or less prominence, and if they were paid salaries they wouldn't get much business, and if they were paid commissions they would use their political influence to have all sorts of risks accepted. There are many other reasons why the business if conducted by the State would be a failure, all of which will be brought out during the discussion of the subject.

A communication was published a few days ago in an Atlanta paper showing that when the Western and Atlantic railroad of this State was run by the State it lost money. The State, owning the property, tried to get the best results from it. Now that the road is leased, it yields the State a handsome income. So Florida would make a failure of it if it went into the life insurance business. The business, it is safe to predict, wouldn't pay, simply because it wouldn't be run on strictly business principles and by men acquainted with life insurance. If the Legislature of Florida is wise it will keep the State out of business ventures.—Savannah Morning News.

SOMEWHAT TOO PREVIOUS.

The "Capital Publishing Company," after absorbing the Tallahasseean, imagined that it had wiped out all prospect of competition, and was even so sure of it that it caused to be painted in big black letters, on a yellow background in several places on the outside of its place of business the assertion that it was "the only newspaper published in Leon county."

This statement was true—for about a week. But alas! it didn't stay true; for The True Democrat was almost immediately established, and at once captured the favor of the public, partly because it was regarded, both at home and abroad, as the best newspaper Tallahassee had ever had since the demise of the old Floridian, and partly because it was absolutely fearless and independent, beholden to no one, and under no obligation to tell anything but the plain, naked truth.

It is now in order for the "Capital Publishing Company" to paint out its untruthful sign, and to recognize the fact that The True Democrat is here, and here to stay; here to tell the truth about all matters affecting the public interests, and here to lash all manner of crookedness and graft into a frazzle, and make their votaries tremble and grow pale with fear at the prospect of prompt exposure and justly deserved punishment.

The "nomination" of President Roosevelt to succeed himself at the dinner of the Iroquois Club at Chicago last week, was an event of more than ordinary significance. That body is well-known as a Democratic organization, and the applause with which the nomination was received indicates a remarkable condition of public sentiment in the great western city. The President appears to have captured the fancy of the Chicagoans, irrespective of party, by his pronouncement against the striking teamsters to the effect that order must be preserved, and that in order to do so, in all contests with mob violence, "if ever the need arises, back of the city stands the State, and back of the State stands the Nation." This was President Cleveland's position in the time of the railroad riots several years ago.